Gc
974.5
H36p
1778964

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Gq

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 00084 6490

A PLAT

OF THE LAND

of

CAPT. HENRY BVLL

AT PETTAQVAMSCVT

Drawn by

JAMES HELME

Svrveyor

January 8, 1729

ISSUED at the *General Court* of the SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS in the *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*

by its

Governor, FREDERIC WILLARD EASTON, Esquire

and the

Council of the Society

DECEMBER 30, 1927

PROVIDENCE: Printed for the Society by E. L. Freeman Company, Providence, R. I.

James Helme's Plat

1729

1778964

SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
1636
1663
1647

F
845876
.39

Helme, James.

A plat of the land of Capt. Henry Bvll at Pettaqvamscvt. Drawn by James Helme, svrveyor, January 8, 1729. Issued at the General court of the Society of colonial wars in the state of Rhode Island and Providence plantations by its governor, Frederic Willard Easton, esquire, and the Council of the Society, December 30, 1927. Providence. Printed for the Society [1928?]

SHELF CARD

17 p. 3 plans. 23½cm.

Alternate pages blank.

1. Bull, Henry, 1610-1694. I. Society of colonial wars. Rhode Island.

A 33-1146

D 26729

Title from Newberry Libr. Printed by L. C.

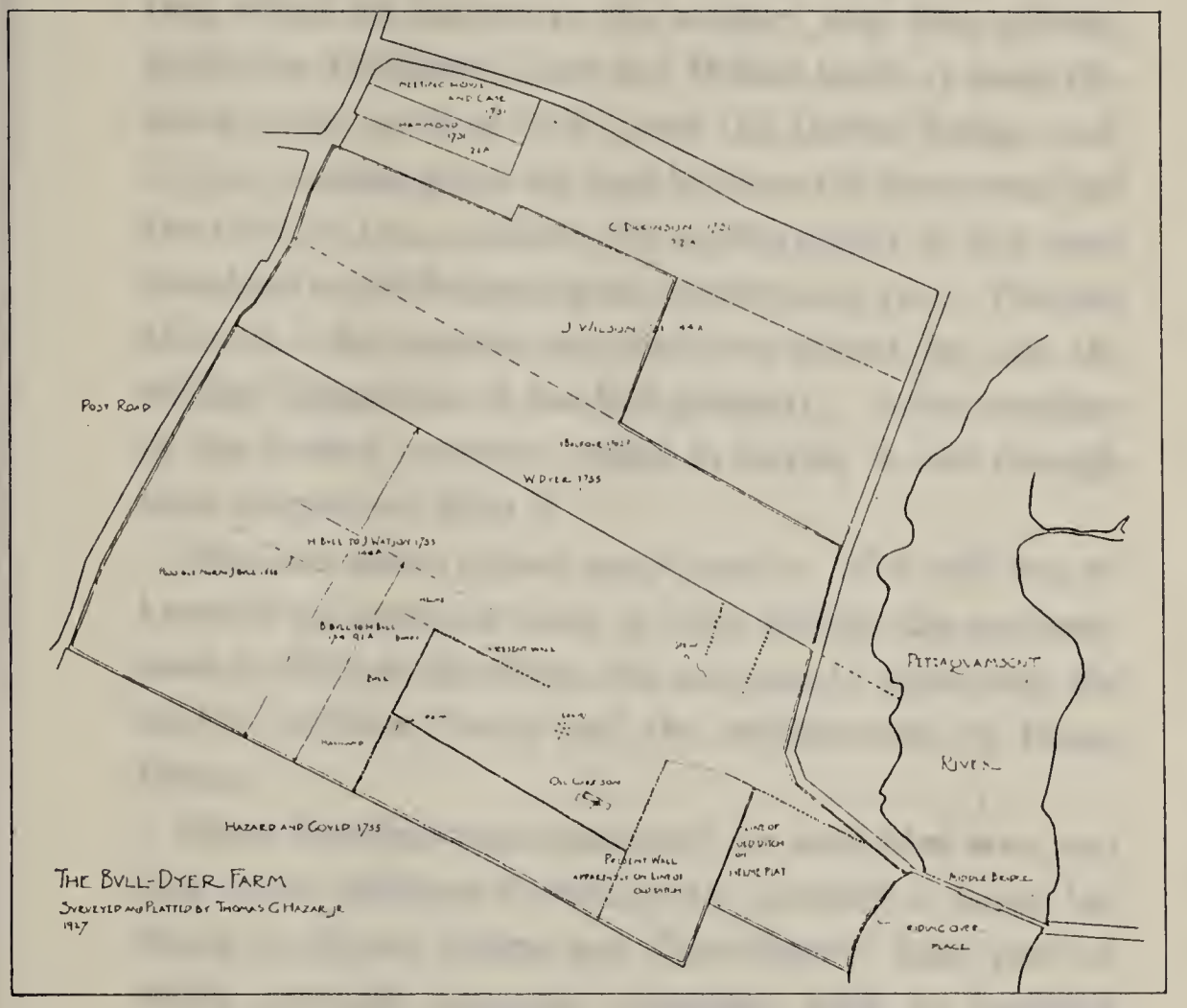
THE massacre at Jireh Bull's house must always have an interest for Rhode Islanders.

Several years ago the Society of Colonial Wars in Rhode Island excavated the site and proved the correctness of the tradition which had always placed the house on the eastern slope of Tower Hill. At this General Court we present the testimony of a nearly contemporary document to confirm that of the spade. On the original plat which we reproduce are some indications of walls or ruins marked "Old Garison" and, as the plat was "indrafted" by James Helme, surveyor, and as it represents the land of Henry Bull, on Pettaquamscut Hill in 1729, it carries the tradition back to within about fifty years of the attack. As Captain Henry Bull was the grandson of Jireh, and as James Helme was a grandson of Rouse Helme, once Jireh Bull's neighbor on the north, each of these men would know the facts which made a deep impression on the few dwellers in the South County or King's Province of those days.

We print a modern map, laid out by Mr. T. G. Hazard, Jr., which will give the relation of the Henry Bull land to the present road and the Middle Bridge. This shows that the Bull farm of 140 acres is the same today as it was in 1729. The old ditches may have disappeared or have been replaced by walls and the old marsh near the river has filled up but the bounds are the same.

The Pettaquamscut purchasers meant to have a town on the eastern slope of the hill. They laid out house lots there, each of twenty acres. None of the old plats of the purchase show these divisions and we despaired of ever filling the

D2617229


Post Road
J Wilson
W Dyer 1755
H Bull to J Watson 1755
Hazard and Gould 1755
Petaquamscut
River
Middle Bridge
The Bull-Dyer Farm
Surveyed and Platted by Thomas G Hazard Jr
1927

great blank space on the old maps. There are deeds, it is true, but it is very hard to identify the strips of land they describe so vaguely. There are gaps among them, too, and it seems that some were never recorded. A few small plats have, since our last publication, gradually come to light. One, which we include in the modern map here printed, shows the Dickinson, Case and Wilson lands at some distance to the north of Bull's, near the Middle Bridge road, in 1731, another gives the land between the lower road and the river in 1704, another the northern part of this same river land as divided among the Gardiners in 1705. This was all until, a few months ago, there was offered for sale the original Helme plat of the Bull property. A few members of the Society promptly united in buying it and through their courtesy we print it.

Even this leaves a good many puzzles. The only lots we know of the proposed town, in 1663, belong, the southernmost to William Haviland, the next one to Jireh Bull, the next to William Bundy and the northernmost to Rouse Helme.

Below Haviland was, apparently, an undivided area, and then came William Brenton, with probably a house lot. North of Rouse Helme was "purchasers" land part of which probably belonged somewhat later to Benedict Arnold who is known to have had a house lot, but how much more land no one can yet say.

In 1668 Bull had bought the lot of Bundy as well as that of Haviland and possessed sixty-four acres, more or less, or three lots.

In 1714 Benjamin Bull, Jireh Bull's grandson, sold to his cousin, Henry Bull ninety-two acres which must include the lot which was, in 1668, the property of Rouse Helme. How Benjamin acquired this we can not now say.

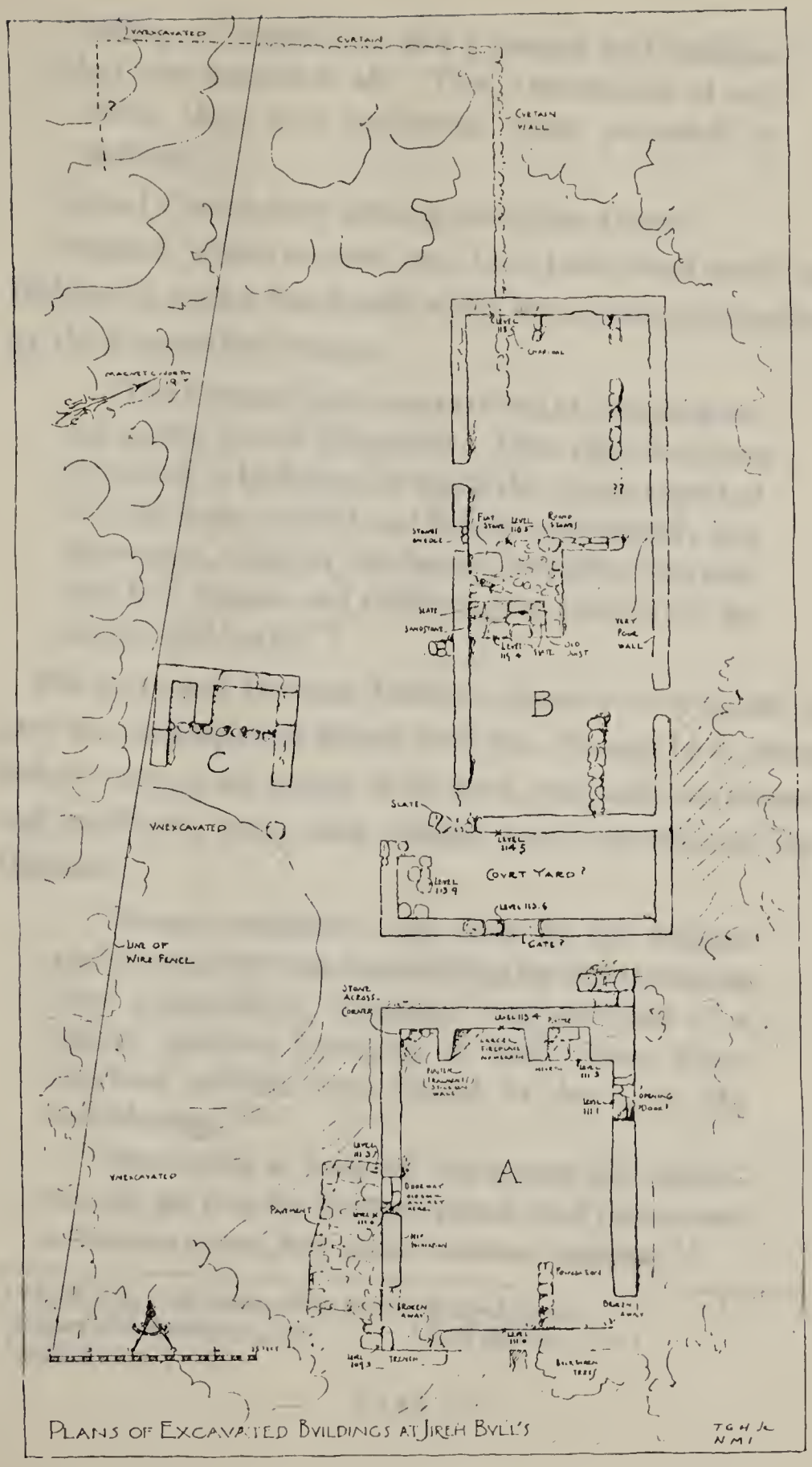
In 1755 Henry Bull, who had, in some way not yet clear, come into the possession of about fifty more acres on the north, sold to John Watson one hundred and forty acres, the Bull farm as the Helme plat shows it and as it is to day.

On the north, at this date, was the land of William Dyer, even now known as the Dyer farm, though the two are now combined and the name Bull-Dyer is given to the whole. This may have belonged to "Old" Thomas Hazard who certainly sold some land very near this to George Balfour soon after 1700. In 1727 James Helme, in his map of the South Kingstown roads, locates upon it the house of Charles Dickinson.

The site of the garrison is thus settled. It seems strange that after all so little is known of the tragedy enacted there. That it happened, as attested by the spade work on the site, is amply proved by contemporary documents, but the accounts are surprisingly meager.

The Reverend William Hubbard, in his *History of the Indian Wars* was no doubt informed as to the Swamp Fight campaign by Major Appleton who, as a resident of Ipswich, was a parishioner and friend of the minister. He simply records the tragedy with a brief moral remark:

> "The next day Capt. Prentice with his troop, being sent to Pettyquamscot, returned with the sad news of burning Jerry Bull's garrison-house and



PLANS OF EXCAVATED BUILDINGS AT JIREH BULL'S

TGHL
NMI

killing 10 Englishmen and 5 women and children but two escaped in all. This is the chance of war which they who undertook must prepared to undergo."[1]

Colonel Church says nothing about the attack.

Trumbull, whose account may have been based partly on Hubbard's, adds a few details which were, perhaps, reported by the Connecticut troops:

"The Connecticut troops arrived at Pettyquamscot on the 17th of December. Here there had been a number of buildings in which the troops expected to have been covered and kindly entertained; but the enemy, a day or two before, had killed ten men and five women and children, and burned all the houses and barns."[2]

The Reverend Increase Mather, whose work is based in part on contemporary letters and who, though he is often looked upon as an enemy of all good, was really an honest and intelligent man, adds another touch passed over by Hubbard:

"Several mischiefs were done by the Indians whilst our army were here waiting for their brethren from Connecticut, especially their surprisal of a remote garrison belonging to Bull, where about fourteen persons were baited to death by the terrible dogs."[3]

"Meanwhile a body of the enemy did treacherously get into the house of Jerem. Bull (where was a Garison,) and slew about fourteen persons."[4]

---

[1] *The History of the Indian Wars in New England*, p. 128.
[2] *History of Connecticut*, I., 338. [3] *Brief History*, p. 77.
[4] *Brief History*, p. 105.

The narrative known as '*A True and Last Account*' adds nothing

> "We had News brought us that 22 of our Stragling Souldiers were Slain and divers Barns and out Houses, with Mr. Jer. Bull's dwelling House burnt."[1]

The testimony of the messenger of Pessicus, taken April 29, 1676, though from the Indian side adds almost nothing.

> "We tould him that they begun wth us at Quabaug we were men of peace, did not medle before they had slayn the english there, we did not medle at Naraganset before they cam first & burnt Jeri Bulls house & kild sundry english there, & cam against us wth 2 or 300 men he sd that was true, but the Gou^{r} of plimouth & Mosley had kild & taken sixty of them foure days before Jeri Bulls house was burnt & those people killed y^{r}".[2]

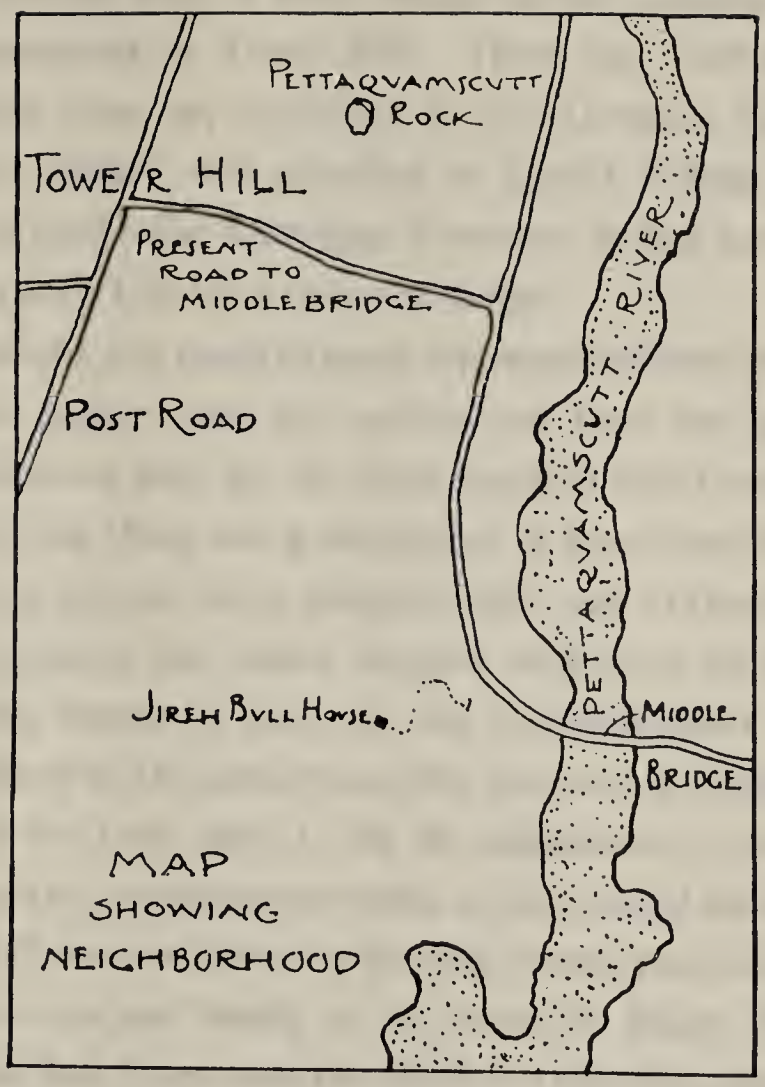
This closes the documentary evidence. There was apparently no inquest-*inter arma leges silent.* No letter is known from any Newport archives, nor has any entry ever appeared from a contemporary diary. The younger Winthrop was not with the Connecticut troops, so that we have not the account which he would certainly have written to his father the governor.

The memory nevertheless, of the burning and the massacre, which so profoundly stirred the people, has never died out in South County. There is a constant and strong

---

[1] Re-printed in Drake.

[2] Examination of the messenger of Pessicus. (*Conn. Hist. Soc. Coll., Vol. 21, p. 242.*) (*Wyllys Papers.*)


PETTAQUAMSCUTT
ROCK
TOWER HILL
PRESENT
ROAD TO
MIDDLE BRIDGE
POST ROAD
PETTAQUAMSCUTT RIVER
JIREH BULL HOUSE
MIDDLE
BRIDGE
MAP
SHOWING
NEIGHBORHOOD

1778964

tradition which, though very brief, supports the statement of Hubbard that two men escaped. These were, it says, James[1] and Daniel Eldred. James it further declares, killed one of his Indian pursuers on what has since been called Indian Run, a little stream at the western foot of Pettaquamscut or Tower Hill. There may well be some confusion here, as, according to Dr. Goodwin the name "Indian Killer" was attached to Daniel Eldred. These were no doubt the Eldredges who went Indian hunting so blithely with Church a day or so before.

We would give much to know the names of those who died. We can gather from the records and from the hopes of entertainment held by the three hundred odd Connecticut soldiers that there was a settlement of some size on Pettaquamscut hill and in its neighborhood, and to these people may be added the tenant farmers on Boston Neck. We know the names of many of the Pettaquamscut people, probably of all the landowners, but that is of little help. An attempt has been made to list the inhabitants in 1671, but many of the names appear again, in fact almost all in 1679. Jireh Bull was not there for he died several years later, nor were his wife and family in the house for Roger Williams says that Sam Dyer came in a ketch to take them away.[2]

There is a tradition, recounted by the late William P. Sheffield who well knew the history of Newport and its people, that the Sanford children were in the garrison.

---

[1] Possibly this should be John. There is no James in the Fones Records.
[2] Narr. Club, VI, 371.

The Reverend John Sanford, formerly rector of St. John's, Barrington, without knowing of Mr. Sheffield's story recalled a tradition in his family that an Indian had killed an infant by dashing its head against a wall.

Beyond these statements of tongue or pen we know, at present, nothing.

Edwin Aylsworth Burlingame
Theodore Everett Dexter
Frederic Willard Easton
Norman Morrison Isham
Howard Willis Preston

Committee

F7458/F39

6057